



I - L I G H T

I-Light 2

Building on the success of ***I-Light*** and the ***Indiana Telecommunications Network***

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- **I-Light** is a high-speed optical fiber network between Indiana University and Purdue University through Indianapolis, funded by a \$5.3 million state appropriation. I-Light connects to Internet2 and other national and international networks. (<http://www.i-light.iupui.edu/>)
 - **Internet2** is a consortium of more than 180 U.S. universities working with industry and government to develop and deploy advanced network applications and technologies for research and education. (www.internet2.edu/about/aboutinternet2).
 - **Indiana Telecommunications Network (ITN)** is the State's public sector network, which provides advanced network services locally to campuses, schools, libraries, and agency offices in every community in Indiana. (www.ITN.IN.gov)
 - **I-Light2** will build on the success of I-Light, Internet2, and ITN to expand and link the State's networking efforts. It will expand the fiber optic network of I-Light and link to the 2000 ITN users around the state. Recognizing the value of a high speed network, the Indiana legislature approved *I-Light2* funding with a \$10 million appropriation in the 2003 Budget Bill.
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I-Light 2 is a collaborative effort between the Indiana State Budget Agency, the Intelnet Commission, the Indiana Higher Education Telecommunication System (IHETS), the Indiana Department of Commerce, Purdue University, and Indiana University.

I-Light2 consists of three distinct phases:

1. High-speed optical link to a major global research peering point in Chicago. (done)
2. Statewide fiber backbone connecting newly established major city nodes. (under development)
3. Last mile connectivity to select authorized user groups. (next)

I-Light2 will use some of Indiana's miles of unused or "dark" fiber-optic cable bundles that generate no revenue for the private sector owners nor benefit to local communities. *I-Light2* uses a portion of this untapped or un-lit resource by working with the private sector to light some of the cables in their dark fiber infrastructure and create two interconnected fiber-optic loops linking in Indianapolis. The *I-Light2* investment assures placement of high-speed digital on-ramps for Hoosier communities.

I-Light2 will become an "anchor tenant" by providing initial resources to light a portion of a dark fiber bundle. Once the public sector portion of the fiber is lit, the incremental cost of lighting additional fiber for commercial use will be more attractive to providers. This means funds used to provide direct high-speed access to the public sector will also indirectly provide the foundation for more rapid roll-out of commercial broadband service.

I-Light2 will enhance research, education, and economic development throughout the state and expand Indiana's growing reputation in advanced high-speed networking.

I-Light2 eliminates the "academic digital divide" by providing high speed access in higher education beyond Purdue and IU, as well as supporting collaboration between all educational communities (K-12, community colleges, higher education), and facilitating life-long learning.

I-Light2 is also designed to help connect regional networking projects and technology centers around the state. Hubs or distribution points will be located in or near: Indianapolis, Muncie, Fort Wayne, South Bend, Gary/Hammond, Terre Haute, Evansville, New Albany, Columbus, Richmond, Vincennes, Kokomo, Bloomington, and Lafayette.